



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819*

Superintendent's Report to School Committee May 28, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Budget Update

I wish to report that the Senate, after debate last week, announced its final budget. Of note, the Senate budget includes funding for two special programs within the Franklin Public Schools. The first is \$58,000, sponsored by Senator Spilka, towards the work of our Substance Abuse Taskforce. This funding will assist the Taskforce in updating educational programming for our students and create public service campaigns to curb and prevent substance abuse through multiple mediums. The second earmark is for \$50,000, submitted by Senator Rausch, for a Vaping Detection and Prevention program. The goal of this effort is to curb teen vaping use through devices that will detect vaping on campus. Additionally, we will use funding for education and prevention measures.

While the final state budget will still need to be determined through the Conference Committee, we are thankful to our legislators for finding ways to support Franklin Public Schools and these very important projects.

Recent Recognitions and Celebrations

We enjoyed the many opportunities we had late last week to participate in several recognitions and celebrations. Davis Thayer, Parmenter, and Jefferson all hosted very poignant and special recognition ceremonies in honor of Memorial Day.

At Remington last week, the school hosted Wellness Day. Students spent the day in a variety of wellness related sessions including physical activity like Crossfit exercise, Zumba, and Pound; relaxation techniques such as Yoga and mindfulness; and other health activities such as reading and foam-rolling tired muscles.

Lastly, our World Language Department hosted a small but meaningful awards ceremony on Friday afternoon. Sixty-six students at Franklin High School received commendations and recognition for their performance on the Latin, French and Spanish National language exams. Congratulations -- we are very proud of you!

MASS Spring Meeting Recap

On Thursday, May 16, Assistant Superintendent Giguere and I attended the Spring Convening of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. The keynote speaker was Udit Batra, the CEO of MilliporeSigma, a biotech company who produces laboratory products for scientific research. Mr. Batra spoke on STEM education and leadership. In the Q and A portion, he spoke directly to the Superintendents about what we can do in K-12 to prepare our students for STEM careers:

- Teach students the basics of science
- Provide experiential learning opportunities
- Teach students to be facile with new technologies and apply them in different contexts
- Include ethics

The spring meeting continued with remarks from Jeff Riley, the Commissioner. Mr. Riley asked for the Superintendents to provide feedback in a few key areas. For the first time ever, we engaged in breakout sessions to dialogue with peers. Ultimately the groups provided the Commissioner with feedback on Accountability, District Flexibility, Educator Recruitment and Retention, and Wraparound Services.

The meeting concluded with a recognition of colleagues through the Presidents' Awards, the succession of officers, and recognition of longevity and retirees.